

Six overlooked specimens of Bruijn's Brush-turkey *Aepypodius bruijnii* (Oustalet, 1880)

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Received 24 January 2000

Bruijn's Brush-turkey *Aepypodius bruijnii* (Oustalet 1880) is a virtually unknown megapode living on the island of Waigeu, Irian Jaya, Indonesia. Only 15 specimens of it have been recorded so far. Six are in the collection of the American Museum of Natural History, New York, and two, including the type, in the collection of the Muséum national d'Histoire naturelle, Paris; and one each in the Nationaal Natuurhistorisch Museum, Leiden, The Natural History Museum, Tring, the Staatliches Museum für Tierkunde, Dresden, the Turati Collection, Milano, the Academy of Natural Sciences, Philadelphia, the Senckenberg Museum, Frankfurt and the Zoological Museum of the University of Hamburg (Jones *et al.* 1995).

Examination of the collections of the Muséum national d'Histoire naturelle recently revealed that this institution possesses not two but eight specimens of Bruijn's Brush-turkey, so that the world's known total is in fact not 15 but 21. A list of the eight specimens in Paris is given here :

- (1) C.G. 1880-1551. Holotype of the taxon. Flat skin, previously mounted specimen. Inscriptions under the pedestal : Talegallus (Aepypodius) Bruijnii / (Type) (Oust.) / M. Bruijn Waigiou.
- (2) C.G. 1880-1553. Flat skin. This is the juvenile described by Oustalet in 1881 a & b. First label : Talegallus / Aepypodius Bruijnii / jeune (Oust.) / Waigiou / L. Laglaize Ne Guinée. Second label : A.A. BRUIJN TERNATE [printed] / N. Guinée Waigeo 1879 /// N° 18.
- (3) C.G. 1886-12. Mounted specimen. Île Waigiou / acq. à M. Laglaize / Talegallus Bruijnii / (Aepypodius.) (Oust.)
- (4) C.G. 1887-416. Mounted specimen. Talegallus (Aepypodius) Bruijnii (Oust.) / M. Laglaize Nlle Guinée Waigiou ♂ / (JT). (see Plate 1)
- (5) C.G. 1887-417. Mounted specimen. Talegallus (Aepypodius) Bruijnii (Oust.) / ♀ Mr Laglaize (Waigeou) Nlle Guinée / JT.
- (6) C.G. 1999-3023. Flat skin. Label : Aepypodius bruijni / Col. Bruijn Waigiou /// B [large, in red] 65.
- (7) C.G. 1999-3024. Flat skin. First label : Aepypodius bruijni / Col. Bruijn Waigiou /// B [large, in red]. Second label : G Waigeo E [struck off] /// A.A. BRUIJN TERNATE [same label as the second one of no. 1880-1553].

Plate 1. Bruijn's Brush Turkey *Aepyodius bruijnii* (Onstale, 1880): male specimen from Waigiu in the collections of the Muséum national d'Histoire naturelle, Paris. This species has not yet been seen alive by western scientists. Photograph copyright P. Lafitte / Muséum national d'Histoire naturelle.



- (8) C.G. 1999-3025. Flat skin. Label : *Aepyodius bruijni* / Col. Bruijn Waigiou /// B [large, in red] 64.

C.G. stands for « Catalogue général », now the only catalogue in use in the Laboratoire des Mammifères et Oiseaux of the Muséum national d'Histoire naturelle. The meaning of the initials « JT » is lost, they are probably some kind of signature. The symbol / is used for a change of line, and /// means that the text goes over on the other side of the label. Specimens with a large, red « B » on their labels come from the collection of Adolphe Boucard (1839-1905), a French natural history dealer who settled in London towards the end of the 19th century and left a large part of his collection to the M.N.H.N. Léon Laglaize was a French travelling merchant who traded specimens with A.A. Bruijn.

Meyer de Schauensee (1940) was the first to give an overview of the number and whereabouts of specimens of *Aepyodius bruijnii*, a species which up to now has never been seen alive by western scientists. He listed 12 specimens, all except a single skin collected by hunters of A.A. Bruijn around 1880. Confirmation that the species really originated from Waigeu, which was doubted for many years (see e.g. Peters 1934), came in 1939 when one specimen was taken by a local collector for the Denison-Crockett Expedition of the Academy of Natural Sciences in Philadelphia. The six specimens now discovered were received after Oustalet's publications (1880, 1881 a & 1881 b), but were all collected before 1905 by Bruijn's hunters.

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